

## Shanghai Municipal Police.

CENTRAL

November

28

1922

4859

29/11/22

Station.

## REPORT ON Russians apply for passports to Australia

Made by D. I. Sullivan

Forwarded by

Sir,

Nikolas Idanoff is a native of Bugilma, Samara Province, European Russia. He is 26 years old and is unmarried. He was a medical student until the outbreak of the revolution in Russia when he joined the Czecho-Slovak Army and served with them as a hospital attendant. He afterwards served with Kolchak and other anti-Bolshevik detachments in Siberia until the occupation of Vladivostock by the "Reds". He came to Shanghai from Vladivostock on October 25, 1922 and since his arrival has lived at 332 Broadway. His passage to Australia is being paid by Dr. Panek, a Czecho-Slovak under whom Idanoff served in Siberia. His reason for choosing Bristane is because the fare is cheaper than to Sydney or Melbourne and also because he believes that for a man with his limitations as regards language, etc. employment will be easier to obtain in Queensland than in New South Wales or Victoria. He intends at first to endeavour to obtain some kind of work on a farm of which he had had experience but eventually to continue his studies in the medical profession.

Ivan Bessaroboff is a native of Shatoi, Tarek District, South Eastern Russia. He is 26 years old and is unmarried. He is a motor mechanic by trade. He served in the Russian Army on the Persian front during the great war. After being demobilised in 1918 he returned to his home and afterwards joined in an anti-Bolshevik revolt and was forced to retreat into Mesopotamia from where he was repatriated to

**Shanghai Municipal Police.**

Station.

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**REPORT ON**

Made by

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Vladivostock ~~via~~ Bombay by the British Authorities in August 1921. In September 1921 he joined the Siberian flotilla under the Vladivostock Government where he stayed until March 31, 1922 when he was invalided out of the service. He came to Shanghai by the S.S. "Shinlee" in April 1922 and lived at 805 Broadway for about three months. He then obtained a job as fireman on a Dutch vessel called the S.S. "Zosma" and did one voyage calling at ports on the Chinese, Japanese, and Russian coasts. The voyage lasted five weeks and on returning to Shanghai he lived at 679 Broadway for about two months when he removed to 332 Broadway where he has since resided. He has no money and is looking for an opportunity to work his passage to Australia. He is not particular ~~at~~ what part of Australia he goes to and has no particular wish to go to Brisbane except that his friend Jdanoff is going there. Both Jdanoff and Bessaroboff are almost destitute and are trying to get away from Shanghai as quickly as possible. There is nothing against either of the applicants in Police records.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

  
D. I.

D. C. I.

4859  
29/11/22

CONFIDENTIAL.

November 28,

My dear Denham,

With reference to your letter No. 274 of November 24 addressed to Hilton-Johnson, the following information has been obtained regarding the two persons mentioned:-

Nikolas Idanoff is a native of Busilra, Samara Province, European Russia, 28 years old and unmarried. He was a medical student until the outbreak of the revolution in Russia when he joined the Czechoslovakian Army and served with it as a hospital attendant. He afterwards served with Kolchak and other anti-Bolshevik detachments in Siberia until the occupation of Vladivostok by the "Reds". He came to Shanghai from Vladivostok on October 25, 1922 and since his arrival has lived at 322 Broadway. His passage to Australia is being paid by Dr. Panek, a Czechoslovak under whom Idanoff served in Siberia, and his reason for choosing Brisbane is because the fare is cheaper than to Sydney or Melbourne and also because he believes that for a man with his limitations as regards language, etc., employment will be easier to obtain in Queensland than in New South Wales or Victoria. He intends at first to endeavour to obtain some kind of work on a farm, of which he has had experience, but eventually to continue his studies in the medical profession.

Ivan Bessaroboff is a native of Shatoi, Terek District, South Eastern Russia, 26 years old and unmarried. He is a mechanic by trade and served in the Russian Army on the Persian front during the war. After being demobilized in 1918 he returned to his home and afterwards joined in an anti-Bolshevik revolt and was forced to retreat into Mesopotamia from where he was repatriated to Vladivostock via Bombay by the British Authorities in August 1921. In September 1921 he joined the Siberian Flotilla under the Vladivostock Government where he stayed until March 31, 1922 when he was invalided out of the service. He came to Shanghai by the s.s. "Shinlee" in April 1922 and lived at 805 Broadway for about three months. He then obtained a job as fireman on a Dutch vessel called the "Zosma" and did one voyage calling at ports on the Chinese, Japanese and Russian coasts. The voyage lasted five weeks and on returning to Shanghai he lived at 679 Broadway for about two months when he removed to 330 Broadway where he has since resided. He has no money and is looking for an opportunity to work his passage to Australia. He is not particular to what part of Australia he goes and has no particular wish to go to Brisbane except that his friend Idanoff is going there. Both Idanoff and Bessaroboff are almost destitute and are trying to get away from Shanghai as quickly as possible. There is nothing against either of the applicants in Police records.

Yours sincerely,

K. J. D.

G. C. Donnan, Esquire, C.I.E., C.B.E.,  
H. B. S. Consulate General.

Confidential

British Consulate-General.

Shanghai.

4859

29/11/22

No. 234

Dated, the 24<sup>th</sup> November, 1922

My dear *Hilton - Johnson.*

A Russian named Nikolas Idanoff is applying at the Consulate for a passport or visa to Australia and has been fathered in some mysterious way by J.S. Little. Everything about the man seems suspicious and apparently no one knows who he really is. The fact that he is going to Brisbane - a centre of Bolshevism in Australia - also strikes me as suspicious particularly in view of the fact that he says he does not know anybody in Australia. I believe Idanoff lives with another Russian who is also trying to go to Australia called Berserakoff at 372 West Broadway.

I should be grateful if you would let me know as soon as possible anything that can be ascertained regarding these two men.

Yours sincerely,

*[Signature]*

Major J. H. Hilton-Johnson,

*D.C.I.*  
*[Faint handwritten notes]*

*I. O.*

*For attention*

*25/11/22 for [unclear]*